Tour Start: Outside Giftshop Entrance

* Introductions
* Describe original 1938 proposal for a “Dream Civic Center”
* Describe Wright’s commitment to completing project for his boyhood hometown, despite receiving minimal payment for all his efforts

Tour Stop: Level 5, Olin Terrace Entrance

* Note how building relates to its site (in this case built vs natural environment)
* Note shared design elements between Monona Terrace & Capitol (1906 G.B. Post design)
* Ceiling extends outside of entryway, creating sense of shelter and breaking down barrier between exterior and interior space
* Note modest size of street-level entrance
* More welcoming than a grand entryway, because it’s built to a human scale
* Visitors will experience further manipulation of interior space thoughout their tour

Tour Stop: Level 4, Entrance to Capitol Promenade

* Approaching Lake Monona, we’ll pass through long corridor similar to corridor of buildings lining MLK Blvd
* Barrel arch mirrors arched corridors of Capitol Rotunda

Tour Stop: Level 4, Grand Terrace

* Ceiling level drops as you approach this grand space
* But space opens up as you approach Lake Monona, drawing you in
* Wright is presenting view that (ironically) his building blocks from street level entrance
* Compare 1959 Lake View Presentation Drawing to Lake View Photo of completed building
* Describe Anthony Puttnam’s successful adaption of 1959 plan for use as convention facility

Tour Stop: Level 4, Madison Ballroom

* Demonstrate chandeliers by dimming lights (lightpad setting #4)
* Discuss carpet design
* Current controversy over carpet design dims in comparison to 60 years of controversy preceding building’s opening
* While in 1950’s, opponents objected to building because it **was** an FLW design
  + Project attacked as impractical and overpriced
  + Wright attacked as irresponsible dreamer, always in debt to local merchants
* In 1990’s, opponents objected to building because it **was not** an FLW design!
  + Project use had changed from Civic Auditorium to Convention Center
  + This necessitated complete redesign of virtually all interior spaces
  + Opponents viewed final 1959 design as “sacred” document that must not be altered

Tour Stop: Level 1, Exhibition Hall [Light setting = EH Works]

* Room offers 38,000 sq ft of unobstructed meeting space w/5 loading docks
* This allows access for trucks to drive right in and load/unload exhibit materials
* Describe arched ceiling elements that incorporate building’s design theme but still permit maintenance access to lighting & HVAC equipment

Tour Stop: Level 1, Lakeside Commons

* Describe placement of building, which extends 90 feet beyond original shoreline
* Design incorporates Lake Monona Bike Path, replacing Wright’s concept for a “scenic lakeside drive”
* Describe environmental concerns over driving 1725 pilings into site consisting largely of landfill materials
* Concerns proved to be unfounded as site is now prime Lake Monona fishing spot!

Tour Stop: Level 2, Community Terrace

* Use of glass partition offers private space in public facility, without obstructing lake views
* Ideal wedding and informal banquet venue

Tour Stop: Level 2, Dane Room

* Note manipulation of interior space to make small room feel larger
* Note integration of furniture design with building design
* Furniture, art glass and even tableware designs were common feature of many Wright buildings
* Cactus plants are displayed here because they can withstand temperature extremes
* Building’s LEED design features allow ventilation system to be turned off when rooms are not in use, thereby conserving energy

Tour Stop: Level 3, Building Design Gallery

* Exhibit was installed as part of our building renovation project in January, 2014
* Give brief description of exhibit and invite group to return following their tour to learn more

Tour Conclusion: Level 4, Lecture Hall

* Building features 1930’s design elements common to Johnson’s Wax and Guggenheim museum projects
* What Wright would say is that Monona Terrace’s placement on a prominent site at the foot of MLK Blvd makes an already dramatic site more beautiful. “The building’s design enhances the site, each happier for the presence of the other”
* For further information on design and history of building, consult *Monona Terrace: the Enduring Power of a Civic Vision* by David Mollenhoff & Mary Jane Hamilton, available for purchase at the giftshop